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Coordinated Transportation Project Launches Today

Bob Clark, Project Coordinator, today announced the implementation of the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Project. This new project has been in the planning stages since the mid 1980's, and will change the face of transportation in Lincoln and Lancaster County by better serving the needs of those with disabilities and the aged.

"The main objective of this project is to join Lincoln and Lancaster County agencies that can provide transportation together to form a coalition which will increase transit options," Mike Shafer, League of Human Dignity CEO stated. "The target population for this project are people who cannot utilize conventional transportation."

Successful implementation of this project began in 2004, when private funding from the Woods Charitable Fund, the Cooper Foundation and the Lincoln Community Foundation was secured to initiate "year one" of a three-year pilot project. Bob Clark was hired to coordinate this project by the Project Development Group, which is comprised of members from the Community Services Initiative, the League of Human Dignity and StarTran. Bob has since achieved the joining together of several transportation providers to this project, called the Project Provider's Council. The providers agreeing to participate in this program currently are Region V Services, Lincoln Area on Aging, Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County, Vital Services, Developmental Services of Nebraska and Transfiguration.

Among the goals for these providers is to attain combined contracting for fuel, maintenance and vehicle sharing, as a few of their priorities, and to eventually have one dispatching location in order to better serve those special transportation needs.

Stan Dinkelman, Chairperson for the League of Human Dignity, welcomed guests and shared the League's enthusiasm for this project. "We are very excited to be a partner in the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Project," Dinkelman said. "We are proud to play a role in what we believe will emerge as a project that expands transportation for people who experience disabilities and the aged."

Also attending this announcement and voicing their support and encouragement of such a program were Mayor Coleen Seng and Cindy Terwilliger, Deputy Regional Director of the Federal Transit Administration.

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